Contents

Acknowledgments vi

Introduction xiii

The Nikon D40/D40X's Advantages xiv
Where to go from here xv

Quick Tour: Shooting Your First D40/D40x Picture 1

Selecting a Shooting Mode 2
Selecting a focus mode 5
Using the self-timer and remote controls 6
Reviewing Your Pictures 7
Correcting Exposure 9
Transferring Images to Your Computer 10

Part I: Using the Nikon D40/D40x 13

Chapter 1: Exploring the Nikon D40/D40x 15

Up Front 16
Sides and Bottom 19
Left side 19
Right side 20
Bottom 20
On the Lens 21
On Top 24
On the Back 26
Upper half 26
Lower half 26
Viewfinder Display 29
LCD Display 30
Viewing and Playing Back Images 33
Choosing Metering Modes 37
Adjusting ISO Sensitivity 37
Setting White Balance 38
Programmed Exposure Modes 38
Semiautomatic and Manual Exposure Modes 39

COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL

Chapter 2: Nikon D40/D40x Essentials 41

Choosing Metering Modes 41
- Matrix metering 42
- Center-weighted metering 43
- Spot metering 43

Adjusting Exposures with EV 44
Adjusting ISO Sensitivity 45
Using Noise Reduction 46
Working with the Retouch Menu 47
- D-Lighting 47
- Red-Eye Correction 48
- Trim 48
- Monochrome 48
- Filter Effects 49
- Small Picture 49
- Image Overlay 50

Chapter 3: Setting Up Nikon D40/D40x 51

Playback Menu Settings 52
- Delete 52
- Playback folder 52
- Rotate Tall 52
- Slide show 53
- Print set (DPOF) 53

Shooting Menu Preferences 54
- Optimize Image 54
- More on custom image optimization 55
- Image quality 55
- Image size 56
- White balance 56
  - White balance quick start 56
  - Creating white balance presets 56
- ISO sensitivity 57
- Noise Reduction 57

Custom Settings 57
- R Reset 58
- CSM 01: Beep 58
- CSM 02: Focus mode 58
- CSM 03: AF-area mode 58
- CSM 04: Shooting mode 58
- CSM 05: Metering 58
- CSM 06: No memory card? 58
- CSM 07: Image Review 59
- CSM 08: Flash Level 59
- CSM 09: AF-Assist 59
- CSM 10: ISO Auto 59
- CSM 11: Self-Timer/Fn button 60
- CSM 12: AE-L/AF-L 60

CSM 13: AE lock 60
CSM 14: Built-in flash 61
CSM 15: Auto off timers 61
CSM 16: Self-timer 62
CSM 17: Remote on duration 62
Setup Menu Options 62
CSM/Setup menu 62
Format memory card 62
Info display format 63
Auto shooting info 63
World time 63
LCD brightness 63
Video mode 63
Language 63
Image comment 63
USB 64
Folders 64
File no. sequence 64
Mirror lock-up 64
Firmware version 64
Dust off ref photo 64
Auto Image Rotation 64

Part II: Creating Great Photos with the Nikon D40/D40x 65

Chapter 4: Exposure Essentials 67

Understanding Exposure 67
Light produced by a scene 69
Light transmitted by the lens 70
Light admitted by the shutter 72
Light captured by the sensor 72
Getting the Right Exposure 74
Enter the histogram 74
Adjusting exposure 75
Exposure value compensation 76
Tone compensation 77

Chapter 5: All About Lenses 79

Evaluating Your Basic Lens Options 80
Advantages of the kit lenses 81
Upgrading your capabilities 82
Choosing Between Zoom and Fixed Focal Length 85
Assessing Lens Compatibility 86
Deciphering Nikon's Lens-Naming Scheme 87
Understanding Automatic Focus 89
Autofocus modes 91
Setting focus zones 92
Working with Depth of Field 93
Using Wide-Angle and Telephoto Lenses 96
Working with wide-angles 96
To give you more room to shoot 96
To broaden your field of view 96
To increase apparent depth of field 96
To emphasize the foreground 97

To add creative distortion 97
To provide an interesting angle 98
Working with telephotos 98
To decrease distance 98
To isolate your subject 99
To grab sports action 99
To capture wildlife in its native habitat 100
To create flattering portraits 100
To get up close — from afar 100

Chapter 6: Working with Light 103

Choosing Between Continuous and Flash Illumination 103
Ability to preview the lighting effect 104
Ease of exposure calculation 105
Portability of add-on illumination 105
Evenness of illumination 106
Action-stopping ability 106
Syncing capability 107
Relative cost 108
Versatility 108
Mastering Continuous Lighting 108
Three types of continuous lighting 108
Daylight 108
Incandescent/tungsten light 109
Fluorescent light 110
Adjusting color temperature 110
Conquering Electronic Flash 112
Understanding light fall-off 113
Understanding flash sync 114
Understanding sync modes, flash modes, and ghosts 115
Front sync 115
Rear sync 116
Slow sync 116
Other flash modes 117
Flash mode availability 117
Reviewing Key Flash Settings 118
Exposure compensation 118
Flash control 119
Flash shutter speed 119
Built-in flash features 120
Using External Flash 120

Chapter 7: Photo Subjects 123

Basics of Composition 124
Achieving simplicity 124
Centering interest 124

Choosing an orientation 125
Applying the Rule of Thirds 126
Using lines 126
Achieving balance 127
Working with framing 128
Avoiding fusion and mergers 129
Abstract and Pattern Photography 129
Inspiration 129
Abstract and pattern photography practice 131
Abstract and pattern photography tips 133
Action Photography 133
Inspiration 134
Action photography practice 137
Action and sports photography tips 137
Animal Photography 137
Inspiration 137
Animal photography practice 139
Animal photography tips 141
Architectural Photography 141
Inspiration 141
Architectural photography practice 142
Architectural photography tips 143
Black-and-White and Monochrome Photography 145
Inspiration 146
Black-and-white and monochrome photography practice 147
Black-and-white and monochrome photography tips 149
Event Photography 149
Inspiration 149
Event photography practice 151
Event photography tips 153
Fireworks and Light Trails Photography 154
Inspiration 154
Fireworks and light trails photography practice 156
Fireworks and light trails photography tips 157
Flower and Plant Photography 158
Inspiration 158
Flower and plant photography practice 160
Flower and plant photography tips 162
Infrared Photography 162
Inspiration 163
Infrared photography practice 164
Infrared photography tips 166
Landscape Photography 166
Inspiration 166
Landscape photography practice 168
Landscape photography tips 170
Macro Photography 170
Inspiration 171
Macro photography practice 172
Macro photography tips 173
Night Scene Photography 174
Inspiration 174
Night scene photography practice 176
Night scene photography tips 178
People Photography 178
Inspiration 179
People photography practice 181
People photography tips 181
Seasonal Photography 181
Inspiration 182
Winter 182
Spring 182
Summer 183
Fall 183
Seasonal photography practice 184
Seasonal photography tips 186
Still Life and Product Photography 186
Inspiration 187
Still life and product photography practice 188

Still life and product photography tips 189
Sunset and Sunrise Photography 190
Inspiration 190
Sunset and sunrise photography practice 191
Sunset and sunrise photography tips 192
Water Scene Photography 193
Inspiration 194
Water scene photography practice 195
Water scene photography tips 197

Chapter 8: Downloading and Editing Images 199

Starting with Nikon PictureProject 200
Transferring pictures 201
Knowing your transfer options 202
Organizing and viewing pictures 203
Retouching pictures 205
Sharing pictures 206
Looking at Nikon Capture NX 207
Using Nikon Camera Control Pro 208

Appendix: Troubleshooting 213

Upgrading Your Firmware 213
Extending Battery Life 215
Fixing Flash Problems 216
Reviving Bad Memory Cards 218
Cleaning Your Sensor 218

Glossary 221

Index 231